

WSDOT Ferries Division Assistant Secretary David Moseley's Weekly Update March 21, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

In my third week as Assistant Secretary, I've been engaged in a wide variety of discussions and events that I'd like to share with you. We also have some exciting opportunities during the last week of March that you should know about.

A. Ferry Financing Legislation

I started out the week by meeting with the Transportation Commission's subcommittee on the status of the ferry financing legislative tasks as we work towards a revised long-range plan for ferry system this fall . I was also able to meet with the Joint Transportation Committee staff work group and my own internal team as we prepare for upcoming public meetings.

B. Mukilteo City Council meeting

Monday evening, March 17, I joined terminal engineering staff at a Mukilteo City County meeting. We presented new concepts to the City for the Mukilteo Terminal. These initial concepts would require significant additional work to fine tune after the ferry financing legislative studies are complete later this year, to incorporate the outcomes into the planning documents. The concepts for the terminal project show that we have ways to deliver the project within our budget.

C. WSDOT PE conference

This year, WSDOT's Ferries Division hosted WSDOT's annual statewide professional engineers' conference in Bremerton. On Tuesday we invited the PE's on a tour of our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility, and that evening I had the honor of addressing everyone at the welcome event. The three-day conference included a presentation about the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and various other project-oriented presentations, as well as issues of statewide interest – and beyond – such as ADA design and global warming.

D. Tacoma City Club

This Wednesday, I spoke at a Tacoma City Club luncheon. I outlined my four priorities: delivering the six new vessels, continuing to keep our existing vessels well maintained, completing the 2007 ferry financing legislative directives, and talking with the ferry-served communities. I also responded to questions about vessel replacement, passenger-only service, and other concerns. You can watch my presentation online at www.tvw.org.

E. FAC public meetings

Next week I'll have a great opportunity to visit with our ferry-served communities when I attend a series of eight ferry advisory committee (FAC) public meetings. We'll discuss current operational issues and talk about the work leading up to our revised long-range plan stemming from the 2007 ferry financing legislation. Next week's meetings will include Bainbridge Island (24th), Kingston (25th), Southworth (26th) , and Coupeville (27th). We'll have four more meetings the following week. To get additional meeting details visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/planning/ESHB2358.htm#PublicMeetings.

F. Bid opening for new ferries

Thursday, March 27 will be a momentous day. We'll be opening bids for the new 50-car ferries based on the *Steilacoom II* design. Awarding this contract will be another step in the right direction to bring six new vessels online over the next four years . We'll bring the news from the bid opening to the Port Townsend/Keystone Community Partnership Group Thursday afternoon, and the FAC public meeting in Coupeville that evening.

I'm looking forward to next week, and the future of the ferry system. As always, I'm open to your comments and suggestions about this report, or any ferry-related issues.

David